ACTION EUR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	CA-00	E-00	UTED-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	DCP-00	OIG-00	PA-00	TEST-00
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, BE

SUBJECT: BRUSSELS MEDIA REACTION USA

I. (usa) U.S. Elections

"Al-Qaida Plays into Bush's Hands"

Foreign editor Evita Neefs in Christian-Democrat De Standaard (8/3)(circ.81,000) observes: "On July 25, Pakistani security services arrested -with the help of the CIA - Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, one of the most wanted Muslim terrorists. who is suspected of having organized the attacks against the American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in 1998... For Bush it is extremely beneficial to be able to announce such a major breakthrough in the war on terror. It is a breakthrough which, moreover, can be seen as the result of intensive and successful cooperation with allies.

"For Democratic candidate John Kerry a major and specific terror alert three months before the elections is not good news. He urgently needs an opportunity to distinguish himself from the President.. How should Kerry react? He must sing his own praises and attack the President, but he cannot afford to give the impression that he is undermining the President - the Supreme Commander - in his war against terrorism..

"Kerry said that he would conduct the war on terror much more efficiently. However, it is difficult to beat the President who announced new measures yesterday. Bush implemented the recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission which investigated for months what went wrong and whether the attacks

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could have been averted. These are very presidential and firm actions. In that manner, al-Qaida is basically playing into Bush's hands."

II. Media reaction report prepared by Gaston De Winter (Dutch) and Pierre Manderlier (French). Tel: 32-2-508-2412.

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